

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-2 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-17 are pending and are allowed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 05-255604. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, the rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 05-255604 is now moot.

ALLOWED CLAIMS:

Claims 3 to 17 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her careful review and allowance of claims 3 to 17.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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